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2/26/2008 3:59:00 PM

### **Wainscott leads homeland security**

INDIANAPOLIS - Gov. Mitch Daniels announced today that Joe Wainscott is the new executive director of the Department of Homeland Security.

Wainscott, of Anderson, has been the department's training director since 2005. A 23-year veteran of the Indiana State Police, he also served as law enforcement coordinator for the U.S. attorney's office-Southern District of Indiana.

He replaces Col. J. Eric Dietz, appointed in 2005, will return to Purdue University to work with the Purdue Homeland Security Institute as a tenured faculty member in Purdue's College of Technology.

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8:04 PM February 26, 2008

## Homeland Security chief returns to Purdue

**Star report**

February 26, 2008

Indiana's top leader at the Department of Homeland Security is leaving state government to return to Purdue University.

Gov. Mitch Daniels announced today that J. Eric Dietz, the department's executive director, is returning to work with the Purdue Homeland Security Institute as a tenured faculty member in Purdue's College of Technology. Dietz, a retired Army colonel, has served as the first Homeland Security executive director since March 2005 when the governor combined the state's emergency management and homeland security functions into one department.

Daniels has named Joe Wainscott, the department's director of training, as Dietz's replacement. Dietz's final day will be March 14, and Wainscott will begin his new post at that time.

"Col. Dietz was the ideal person to take on the difficult assignment of merging the state's public safety services into one efficient department to prepare and protect Hoosiers," Daniels said in a statement. "We borrowed him from Purdue and we regret that it's time for him to return, but have the consolation of knowing that the state will still have the benefit of his tremendous expertise."

Wainscott, who grew up in Anderson, has been IDHS director of training since October 2005, responsible for managing and coordinating training and exercise programs and overseeing the Indiana Firefighter Training System, among other duties.

Wainscott established the 10 multi-county fire training districts and helped fund more accessible training facilities for firefighters to build their skills. For three years before joining IDHS, he was the law enforcement coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office-Southern District of Indiana, and is a 23-year veteran of the Indiana State Police.

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February 27, 2008

#### STATEHOUSE BRIEFS

## Security chief quits

February 27, 2008

The head of Indiana's Department of Homeland Security is resigning to return to Purdue University, the governor announced Tuesday.

J. Eric Dietz has been the agency's executive director since March 2005, when Gov. Mitch Daniels combined the emergency management and homeland security functions into a single department.

Daniels named Joe Wainscott, director of training at Homeland Security, as Dietz's replacement.

Dietz's last day as director will be March 14. The retired Army colonel plans to return to the Purdue Homeland Security Institute as a tenured faculty member in the College of Technology.

Wainscott, who grew up in Anderson, has been the department's director of training since October 2005, the governor's office said. For three years before joining the agency, he was the law enforcement coordinator for the U.S. attorney's office in the Southern District of Indiana. He is a 23-year veteran of the Indiana State Police.

#### Counselor named

Gov. Mitch Daniels appointed a former phone company attorney to represent ratepayers in utility matters.

David Stippler, an attorney with Bingham, McHale LLP, will be the new the state's utility consumer counselor. He previously worked 17 years at Ameritech, a predecessor of AT&T. Stippler replaces Susan Macey.

Daniels also appointed former Indianapolis firefighter Isaac Randolph Jr. as the director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. He replaces Paula Parker-Sawyers.

Macey and Parker-Sawyers, who both started their jobs in 2005, resigned, according to a news release from the governor's office.

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## **Homeland Security executive director returns to Purdue**

Staff Reports

Publication Date: 02/27/2008

Governor Mitch Daniels announced Tuesday that the executive director of the Department of Homeland Security, J. Eric Dietz, will be ending his state government assignment and will be returning to Purdue.

Dietz, who has served as executive director since 2005, will return to Purdue as a tenured member of the College of Technology.

Dietz's final day will be March 14, at which time he will be replaced by Joe Wainscott, the department's director in training.

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## State fire marshal wants to close VIM Recycling plant

*[by Ed Ernstes \(ernstes@wsbt.com\)](mailto:ernstes@wsbt.com)*

The Indiana state fire marshal wants the VIM Recycling plant in Elkhart closed until three specific safety violations are brought up to code. (WSBT photo)

**By Beth Boehne**

Story Created: Feb 26, 2008 at 5:18 PM EST

Story Updated: Feb 26, 2008 at 5:28 PM EST

ELKHART — There are more problems for the VIM Recycling plant in Elkhart. A suit has been filed that could shut down the operation.

Last summer a massive fire at the plant killed one employee, injured another and gutted the facility.

Since then the company says it has worked with the state to make improvements to prevent it from happening again.

But the state fire marshal says that's not the case. He's suing to have the company closed until all alleged code violations are taken care of.

"This is flat out surprising for us," VIM spokesman Tom Holt told WSBT News.

The state fire marshal has filed for an injunction to close the VIM plant until three specific violations are brought up to code.

According to the state, VIM still needs better access for fire trucks, they need to limit the size of scrap wood piles, and improve ways to monitor the temperatures of those piles.

However, the company says all of that has already been fixed.

"The alleged violations are the same violations from the August 6 inspection that we abated on September 26," explained Holt. "It is shocking, considering that we are in compliance. If you go out to the site today you'll see that the things they are questioning have been taken care of."

Holt says state environmental officials were just there.

"IDEM was actually out at the site on Friday looking over the area and making sure we were in compliance," he said.

Neighbors who live by the recycling plant say they feel the lawsuit backs up their contentions that improvements still need to be made to the operation.

"Well we're really excited about it, and we feel like this has been a great boost to us at this time and we're glad that the fire marshal has entered into the picture," said neighbor Joyce Bellows.

"We were not out here to put anybody out of business," said Brandy Trosper, who also lives by the plant. "We just want them to follow the rules and stay on the regulations and run the way any other company has to run."

Company officials say they may have to resolve these issues in court.

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*Last updated: February 27, 2008 9:17 a.m.*

## **FEMA opening flood disaster center**

### **To serve Allen, Huntington counties**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will set up a Disaster Recovery Center starting Thursday at the Sears Pavilion, 1701 Bluffton Road, the city of Fort Wayne announced Tuesday.

The center will be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Monday.

Anyone in Fort Wayne, Allen County or Huntington County can apply for disaster assistance at this location or check on the status of an application made over the phone or online, the announcement said.

Those affected by flooding can do the following at the Disaster Recover Center:

- \*Apply for FEMA assistance.
- \*Check the status of an application.
- \*Meet with a FEMA representative.
- \*Meet with a U.S. Small Business Administration representative for low-interest disaster loan assistance.

The Sears Pavilion is near Foster Park, across from the Quimby Village shopping center on Bluffton Road. The center will be closed Sunday.

FEMA and the Indiana Department of Homeland Security last week added Allen County to the list of eligible counties for federal disaster assistance following flooding this month.

Those requesting assistance can contact FEMA at 800-621-3362, online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or apply at the center. The telephone hotline is available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week. Those using TTY services can call 800-462-7585. The deadline to register for assistance is March 31.

Applicants are urged to have the following information available to help speed up the application process:

- \*Your current phone number.
- \*Your Social Security number, if available.
- \*A general list of damages and losses.
- \*If insured, your insurance policy number, or your agent and company name.

\*General financial information.

\*The address of and directions to the damaged property.

\*A phone number where you can be reached during the daytime and early evening.

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## Employment benefits extended for flood victims

### STAFF REPORTS

February 26, 2008

An amendment has been made to the original federal disaster declaration that was issued for northern Indiana following the severe storms and flooding that began in January.

Now, workers in 12 counties may be eligible for special Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits, according to the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

Counties included in the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program are Benton, Newton, Starke, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko, Lake, LaPorte, Noble, St. Joseph and Whitley.

To be eligible for assistance, workers or self-employed individuals must be unemployed as a result of a major disaster in a major disaster area.

Unemployment assistance is available to workers if, as a direct result of the disaster, the individual:

- No longer has a job.
- Is unable to reach his or her place of work.
- Was to begin work but does not have a job or is unable to reach the job.
- Has become the primary means of support for the household because the head of household died as a direct result of the disaster.
- Cannot work because of a disaster-related injury.

The deadline for affected workers to file for Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits in March 22.

Claims may be filed at local WorkOne centers. Locations of the centers are available online at [www.in.gov/dwd/WorkOne/regions.html](http://www.in.gov/dwd/WorkOne/regions.html).

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## Disaster assistance available

February 27, 2008

### Post-Tribune staff report

Workers in Lake, LaPorte, Newton, Starke, St. Joseph, Noble, Allen, Benton, DeKalb, Huntington, Kosciusko and Whitley counties may be eligible for special Disaster Unemployment Assistance benefits.

These benefits are linked to the disaster declaration that was issued as a result of severe storms and flooding which took place in January.

To be eligible, workers or self-employed individuals must be unemployed as a result of a major disaster in a major disaster area.

The deadline for affected workers to file is March 22.

The original federal disaster declaration was issued Jan. 30, following a request from Gov. Mitch Daniels.

At that time, President Bush signed a disaster declaration making nine northern Indiana counties eligible for an array of federal disaster relief programs.

The Feb. 21 amendment added 12 more counties to the original nine.

Interested claimants should apply for benefits at their local WorkOne center. To find the location of your closest WorkOne center go to [www.in.gov/dwd/WorkOne/regions.html](http://www.in.gov/dwd/WorkOne/regions.html)

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# Carroll County Comet

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## Severe Weather Preparedness Week is March 2-8 Comet staff report

To focus Hoosiers' attention on the threats posed by tornadoes and thunderstorms, Governor Mitch Daniels has proclaimed March 2-8 as Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

The National Weather Service will conduct a statewide test of communication systems on Wednesday, March 5, between 10:30 and 11 a.m. EST and between 7 and 7:30 p.m. EST. March 7 is the make-up drill day if weather postpones Wednesday's drill. These tests should be used as times to practice your plan.

The goal of Severe Weather Preparedness Week is to better educate people about the hazards of severe thunderstorms and tornadoes, and to help everyone be prepared should severe weather occur.

The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is offering these tips during times of severe weather.

**Tornado safety tips** • Basements, inner rooms of a house, and storm cellars provide the best protection. • Stay away from exterior walls, windows, and doors. Stay in the center of the room. • If you are in your car do NOT try and outrun the tornado because it can switch direction and can cover lots of ground quickly. • Get out of vehicle and go into a strong building if possible. If not, lie flat in a ditch or low area and cover your head. • Do NOT go under overpasses, wind speeds actually increase under them and can suck you out! • If you live in a mobile home, get out IMMEDIATELY. Take shelter in a building with a strong foundation. • Listen to radio or watch TV so you can be alerted about your current situation.

**Thunderstorm safety tips** • If a thunderstorm is coming postpone or cancel outdoor activity. • Do NOT go near tall trees or any other tall objects. • Seek shelter inside a building or in a hardtop vehicle, but don't touch any of the metal inside. • Do NOT use the telephone. Stay away from other electronic devices, bare metal, and water. • Do NOT go near downed power lines. • Keep your eye on the sky as well listen to weather reports on the radio or TV. • If caught out in the middle of a large body of water, return to shore as soon as possible. Get off the water immediately. • If caught out in middle of an open field: If walking with others stay a minimum of 10 feet apart; Also, keep low and move quickly to seek shelter. If there is no shelter lay in a ditch or get to the lowest place around.

For more information about preparedness for severe weather and other emergencies, go to <http://www.in.gov/dhs/3638.htm>.

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